

1. A method of providing access through the abdominal wall to repair a hernia, the abdominal wall including the peritoneum and the properitoneal fascia, the method comprising the steps of:

- 5 a) introducing a main inflatable chamber in a collapsed state between the peritoneum and the properitoneal fascia;
- b) inflating the main inflatable chamber into an expanded state to maintain the peritoneum in a separated state from the properitoneal fascia, and to create a working space therebetween;
- c) introducing insufflation gas into the working space; and
- 10 d) repairing the hernia.

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